

Table 154.—State requirements for high school graduation, in Carnegie units: 1993 and 1996

State	1993	1996								First graduating class to which these requirements apply	Notes
	All courses	All courses	Subject areas								
			English/ language arts	Social studies	Mathematics	Science	Physical education/ health	Electives	Other courses		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Alabama Standard	22	24	4	4	4	4	1.5	5.5	1 (.5 fine arts; .5 computer applications).	2000	Students must become computer literate through related coursework.
Alaska	21	21	4	3	2	2	1	9		—	
Arizona	20	20	4	2.5	2	2	0	8	1.5 (.5 free enterprise, 1 fine arts).	1996	State board is required to adopt competency tests for graduation in reading, writing and mathematics (1996). Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in world history and geography; 1.5 units in U.S. and Arizona Constitutions and Arizona history. ¹
Arkansas Technical postsecondary preparatory	20	21	4	2	3	3	1	3	5 (.5 oral communications; 1 vocational/technical; .5 fine arts; seniors take at least 3 academic courses).	1997	Science requirements include 1 unit in life science and 1 unit in physical science. Physical education requirement includes .5 unit in health and safety and .5 unit in physical education. Physical education cannot exceed 1 unit. ²
College preparatory	—	21	4	3	3	3	1	3	4 (.5 oral communication; .5 fine arts; seniors take at least 3 academic courses).	1988	Science requirements include 1 unit in life science and 1 unit in physical science. Physical education requirement includes .5 unit in health and safety and .5 unit in physical education. Physical education cannot exceed 1 unit. ^{1,2}
California Standard	13	13	3	3	2	2	2	—	1 (includes foreign language or American Sign Language or visual and performing arts).	1989	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in U.S. history and geography, 1 unit in world history, culture and geography, .5 unit American government, and .5 unit economics. Science requirement includes 1 unit in biological and 1 unit in physical science. ³
Colorado	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	—	—	(1,3)
Connecticut	20	20	4	3	3	2	1	1	6	1988	Electives could be in arts or vocational education.
Delaware Standard (1997, 1998)	19	19	4	3	2	2	1.5	6.5	—	1997	Physical education requirement includes .5 unit in health and 1 unit in physical education.
Standard (1999)	—	20	4	3	2	2	1.5	6.5	1 (computer literacy); students must become computer literate through formal class or related coursework.	1999	Physical education requirement includes .5 unit in health and 1 unit in physical education.
Standard (2000)	—	22	4	3	3	3	1.5	—	7.5 (1 computer literacy; students must become computer literate through formal class or related coursework; 3 Career Pathway ⁴ ; 3.5 additional academic coursework).	2000	Physical education requirement includes .5 unit in health and 1 unit in physical education.
District of Columbia	23.5	23.5	4	3.5	3	3	1.5	3.5	5 (2 foreign language; 1 life skills; 1 career/vocational; .5 fine arts; .5 music).	1996	D.C. requires 100 hours of community service without credit.
Florida	24	24	4	2.5	3	3	1	9	1.5 (.5 economics; 1 practical arts or exploratory career education).	—	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in American history, 1 unit in world history and .5 unit in American government. Two science units must have a laboratory component. The physical education requirement includes .5 unit in life management skills and .5 units in physical education. ^{1,2}
Georgia Standard	21	21	4	3	3	3	1	6	1 (computer technology and/or fine arts and/or vocational education and/or junior ROTC).	1997	Students who completed 4 units of vocational education in addition to requirements receive a state seal of endorsement. Mathematics requirement includes 1 unit in algebra. ^{1,2}

Table 154.—State requirements for high school graduation, in Carnegie units: 1993 and 1996—Continued

State	1993	1996								First graduating class to which these requirements apply	Notes
	All courses	All courses	Subject areas						Other courses		
			English/ language arts	Social studies	Mathe- matics	Science	Physical education/ health	Electives			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Advanced	21	21	4	3	3	3	1	4	3 (2 foreign language; 1 fine arts, vocational education, computer technology, or ROTC).	—	(1,2)
Hawaii Standard	22	22	4	4	3	3	2	6	—	1997	Physical education includes 1 unit in health and guid- ance and 1 unit in physical education. 10th grade students take the Hawaii State Test of Essential Competencies (HSTEC).
Recognition diploma	—	24	4	4	3	3	2	6	2 (foreign language, performing/ fine arts, or vocational edu- cation).	1997	Physical education requirement includes 1 unit in health and guidance and 1 unit in physical edu- cation. 10th grade students take Hawaii State of Essential Competencies (HSTEC).
Idaho	21	21	4	2	2	2	1.5	6	3.5 (.5 reading; .5 speech; .5 consumer education; 2 human- ities. Practical arts may sub- stitute for 1 of the 2 units in the humanities).	1997	State requires a C average, demonstrated com- petency in core curriculum on a junior class com- petency test or adherence to a local district's achievement plan for graduation. History require- ment includes 1 unit in U.S. history and 1 unit in American government. Both science units must in- clude a laboratory component. The physical edu- cation requirement includes .5 unit in health and 1 unit in physical education.
Illinois	16	16	3	2	2	1	4.5	2.25	1.25 (1 from music, art, foreign language which includes American Sign Language, or vocational education; .25 from consumer education).	1995	1 year of mathematics may be computer technology. Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in U.S. history or .5 unit in U.S. history and .5 unit in American government. Physical education require- ment includes .5 unit in health education. ²
Indiana Standard	19.5	19.5	4	2	2	2	1.5	8	—	1989	State does not use standard Carnegie units. Tenth grade exit exam begins with the class of 1999– 2000. ¹
Academic honors	24	24	4	3	4	4	1	4 or 5	3 or 4 in foreign language (3 years of 1 language or 2 years in 2 languages)	1990	State does not use standard Carnegie units. Tenth grade exit exam begins with the class of 1999– 2000. ¹
Iowa	—	—	—	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	All students must participate in physical education unless they qualify under certain exceptions. Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in U.S. history and .5 unit in American government. ^{1,3}
Kansas	21	21	4	3	2	2	1	9	—	—	Students are required to take a course in Kansas history or government (consisting of a minimum of 9 weeks and 1,800 minutes) in grades 7–12. Eng- lish/language arts requirement includes 3 units in English. Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in American history and .5 unit in American gov- ernment. ¹
Kentucky Standard	20	20	4	2	3	2	1	8	—	1987	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in U.S. history. The physical education requirement in- cludes .5 unit in health and .5 unit in physical edu- cation.
Commonwealth	22	22	5	2	3	2	1	8	1 foreign language in advanced placement.	1993	Completion of 1 exam in at least 3 of the advanced placement classes (science or mathematics, for- eign language and English) is required. Physical education requirement includes .5 unit in health and .5 unit in physical education.

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	All courses	All courses	Subject areas								
			English/ language arts	Social studies	Mathematics	Science	Physical education/ health	Electives	Other courses		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Louisiana Standard	23	23	4	3	3	3	2	7.5	.5 computer literacy	1987	With an ACT score of 29 or above, 3.5 GPA or above with no semester grade lower than a B, and no unexcused absences or suspensions, students may receive a Scholar Program Seal on their diploma. ^{1,2}
Regents program	24	24	4	3.5	3	3	2	4.5	4 (3 foreign language; 1 fine arts).	1983	
Maine	16	16	4	2	2	2	1.5	3.5	1 fine arts	1989	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in American history and 1 unit in American government. One science unit must include a laboratory component. Students must pass computer proficiency standards. ¹
Maryland	21	21	4	3	3	2	1	5	3 (1 fine arts; 1 industrial arts/ technology education, home economics, vocational education, or computer studies; and 1 community service).	1997	
Massachusetts	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	American history is required. ^{1,2,3}
Michigan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1993	
Minnesota	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2000	A competency exam is optional for students wanting an endorsed diploma. Students must receive instruction on U.S. and Michigan history and take a semester of civics. ³
Mississippi	18	18	4	2	2	2	—	8	—	1989	
Missouri Standard	22	22	3	2	2	2	1	10	2 (1 practical arts; 1 fine arts).	1988	Local districts may add to the requirements. Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in American history. One science unit must include a laboratory component. Of the 9 elective units, 3 core electives are selected from foreign language, English, social studies, mathematics, science or fine arts. A GPA of 3.0 and SAT of 1014 or enhanced ACT of 21 is required.
College preparatory certificate	24	24	4	3	3	2	1	9	2 (1 practical arts; 1 fine arts).	1988	
Montana	20	20	4	2	2	2	1	7	2 (1 fine arts; 1 vocational/practical arts).	1989	The state does not use standard Carnegie units. ³
Nebraska	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1991	
Nevada	22.5	22.5	4	2	2	2	2.5	8.5	1.5 (1 arts and humanities; .5 computer literacy).	1992	Computer literacy course requirement may be waived by demonstration of competency. Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in American government and 1 unit American history. Physical education requirement includes .5 unit in health and 2 units in physical education. ^{1,2}
New Hampshire	19.75	19.75	4	2	2	2	1.25	7	1.5 (.5 arts; .5 computer education; .5 basic business and economics).	1989	
New Jersey	21.5	21.5	4	3	3	2	4	4	1.5 (1 fine, practical, or performing arts; .5 career education).	1990	110 credit hours are required for graduation. (The state does not use standard Carnegie units.) Social studies requirement includes 2 units in U.S. history and 1 unit in world history/cultures. Science unit may be either natural or physical science. The state allows credit for college coursework. ^{1,2}

Table 154.—State requirements for high school graduation, in Carnegie units: 1993 and 1996—Continued

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	All courses	All courses	Subject areas								
			English/ language arts	Social studies	Mathe- matics	Science	Physical education/ health	Electives	Other courses		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
New Mexico	23	23	4	3	3	2	1	9	1 communication skills	1990	One science unit must have a laboratory component. Social studies requirement includes government and economics, world history and geography, and U.S. history and geography. ²
New York Standard	18.5	20.5	—	4	—	—	2.5	2	4 (1 art and/or music; 3 second language).	1989	Social studies requirement includes U.S. history and government. ²
Regents diploma	18.5	18.5	4	4	2	2	2.5	3 to 5	1 (foreign language, art and/or music, occupational, technical or home economics edu- cation).	2000	Physical education requirement includes .5 unit in health and 2 physical education. Physical edu- cation courses may not be included toward the 18.5 units required for graduation. One science credit must include a laboratory component. The 3 to 5 elective units are chosen from a specified se- quence of courses. ²
North Carolina Standard	20	20	4	2	2	2	1	9	—	1987	One science class must include a laboratory compo- nent. ²
Scholars program	22	22	4	3	3	3	1	4	4 (2 foreign language; 2 addi- tional credits from English, mathematics, science, social science, or foreign language).	1994	One science class must include a laboratory compo- nent. ²
North Dakota	17	17	4	3	2	2	1	5	—	1994	The social studies requirement includes 1 unit in world history and geography and 1 unit in U.S. his- tory and geography. A unit of higher level foreign language may be substituted for the fourth unit of English. ³
Ohio	18	18	3	2	2	1	1	9	3 (total units in a subject area other than language arts/Eng- lish must be taken to complete a “minor”).	1988	(^{1,2})
Oklahoma Standard	20	21	4	2	3	2	0	8	2 (1 fine/performing arts; 1 citi- zenship skills).	2000	(¹)
College preparatory	15	15	4	2	3	2	0	—	4 (3 units chosen from foreign language, computer science, English, mathematics, history, sociology, science, speech, or psychology; 1 unit from eco- nomics, geography, govern- ment or non-Western culture.	1996	(¹)
Oregon	22	22	3	3.5	2	2	2	8	1.5 (.5 career development; 1 applied arts, or foreign lan- guage).	1988	Students receive an honors diploma for a GPA of 3.5 or higher.
Pennsylvania	21	21	4	3	3	3	1	5	2 credits in arts, humanities or computer science	1989	Students must achieve 52 state academic perform- ances and locally developed outcomes.
Rhode Island Standard	16	16	4	2	2	2	—	6	—	1989	
College preparatory	18	18	4	2	3	2	—	4	3 (2 credits in foreign language; .5 computer, .5 arts).	—	

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South Carolina Technical preparatory	20	24	4	3	4	3	1	3	6 (4 credits in occupational spe- cialty; 2 in foreign language).	2000	Students must complete an occupational specialty program consisting of four sequential units of in- struction in a career major. Students must dem- onstrate keyboarding proficiency and computer lit- eracy before high school graduation. The social studies requirement includes 1 world history or ge- ography; 1 unit in U.S. history; .5 unit in U.S. gov- ernment and .5 unit in economics. ²
Dual Path	22	24	4	4	4	4	1	1	6 (4 occupational specialty; 2 for- eign language).	2000	Social studies requirement includes 1 unit in world history; 1 unit in world geography; 1 unit in U.S. history; .5 unit in U.S. government; and .5 unit in economics. ²
College preparatory	—	24	4	4	4	4	1	4	3 credits in foreign language	—	Proficiency in computer keyboarding/computer lit- eracy is required for graduation. Social studies re- quirement includes 1 unit in world history; 1 unit in world geography; 1 unit in U.S. history; .5 unit in U.S. government; and .5 unit in economics. ²
South Dakota	20	20	4	3	2	2	—	8	1 (.5 computer studies; .5 fine arts).	1989	Language arts/English requirement includes 1.5 units in writing, .5 unit in American literature, .5 unit in literature and .5 unit in speech. Social studies re- quirement includes 1 unit in U.S. history, .5 unit in U.S. government and .5 unit in geography. Both science units must include a laboratory.
Tennessee Technical preparatory	20	20	4	3	3	3	1	2	4 (program of study focusing on a particular technical area).	1989	Exit exam with no passing standards is required be- fore graduation; it is used to assess readiness for workplace or higher education.
University preparatory	20.5	20	4	3	3	3	1	3	3 (2 in foreign language; 1 fine art)	1989	Exit exam with no passing standards is required be- fore graduation; it is used to assess readiness for workplace or higher education.
Texas Standard (1998)	21	22	4	2	3	2	2	7	2 (.5 economics/free enterprise; .5 speech; 1 technology appli- cation).	1998	Physical education requirement includes .5 unit in health and 1.5 units in physical education. ²
Standard (2000)	22	24	4	4	3	3	2	3	5 (3 foreign language; 1 tech- nology application; 1 fine arts).	2000	Students must choose one of the three-credit addi- tional options for electives. College Board ad- vanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in ap- propriate proficiency areas to receive dual credits for college coursework. Physical education require- ment includes .5 unit in health and 1.5 units in physical education. Social studies requirement in- cludes economics.
Utah	24	24	3	3	2	2	2	9.5	2.5 (1.5 arts; 1 applied technical education or occupational preparation).	1988	Students may accumulate credits more quickly than peers and be eligible to receive a Centennial Scholarship for Early Graduation to be applied to college tuition. ^{1,3}
Vermont	14.5	14.5	4	3	0 to 5	0 to 5	1.5	—	1 arts	1989	A total of 5 credits are required in mathematics and science.
Virginia Standard	21	21	4	3	2	2	2	6	2 (1 additional mathematics or science; 1 fine or practical arts).	1989	(²)
Advanced studies	23	23	4	3	3	3	2	4	4 (3 foreign language; 1 fine or practical arts).	—	(²)

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			English/ language arts	Social studies	Mathematics	Science	Physical education/ health	Electives	Other courses		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Washington	19	19	3	2.5	2	2	2	5.5	2 (1 occupational education; 1 fine/visual or performing arts).	1991	(¹)
West Virginia Standard (1989)	21	21	4	3	2	2	2	8	—	1989	Electives must be from applied arts, fine or performing arts, or a foreign language.
Standard (2002)	21	21	4	3	2	2	2	7	1 art, music, theater or dance	2002	
Wisconsin	13	21.5	4	3	2	2	2	—	—	1989	Grades 9–12 need 1.5 units of physical education and grades 7–12 need .5 unit of health. ^{1,3}
Wyoming	18	18	4	3	2	2	—	5	—	1997	

¹ State allows dual credit for college coursework.² Minimum competency test is required.³ Local boards determine at least some requirements.⁴ A Career Pathway is a planned program of sequenced or specialized courses designed to develop knowledge and skills in a particular career area. Students may use the Additional Academic Coursework (visual and performing arts,

foreign language and/or vocational technical education coursework, including Junior ROTC) as an option, to pursue individual academic interests. The credits in these two categories will eventually replace the elective credits.

—Data not available or not applicable.

NOTE.—Local school districts frequently have other graduation requirements in addition to state requirements.

SOURCE: Education Commission of the States, *Clearinghouse Notes*, "Minimum High School Graduation Requirements" November 1996. (This table was prepared July 1997.)